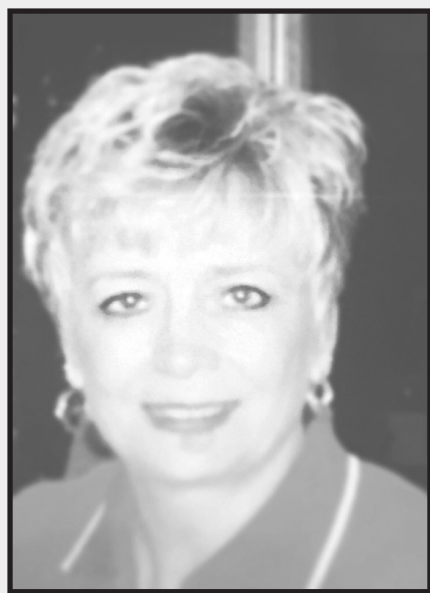


# Beginning of the holiday season



**Times Remembered**  
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I made it through Thanksgiving, but it was the first time ever that I've been away from my daughter on Thanksgiving, and that's been 45 years. I wasn't real happy but we made it and were blessed with plenty of food. We did face-time on our phones with them when we sat down to eat. That made it somewhat easier.

Now it is the beginning of the

Christmas season. We have been putting up Christmas decorations at our own speed. We still lack some things, but we will get there. Thankfully, I have a husband who doesn't mind helping me with anything I need to do, whether it's cooking, decorating or cleaning. He's great at all those things. Of course he has been a little under the weather with his knee replacement surgery. But he's doing good and walking without assistance, except on stairs, he uses a cane.

I have been cleaning and cooking all week. I'm slower than I used to be doing cleaning. As my mom used to say, "I just can't turn the work off like I used to." Back then I thought, what's she talking about, but now I know, it takes me much longer to accomplish things now than when I was 30. Oh! Well! That's the golden years I suppose. I'm thankful that I am just able to do cleaning and cooking.

We started decorating the house inside and out, and we are in the process of putting up the tree. My, it seems like more work every year. Our knees, hands and back have hurt all week-end from climbing on ladders; taking things out of storage, cooking, and cleaning.

And get this..... I have managed to break four or five items while decorating; I'm so clumsy!

It's the holiday season once again, my favorite time of the year. Even though it's hard work I love the decorations, the music, the church services and the search for the perfect gift for each person on my list. One thing I miss the most is the children's Christmas plays, the choir cantatas, and the singing of Christmas carols in the neighborhood. I pray that the COVID-19 will soon be over and we can get back in church and worship the true meaning of Christmas; the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

There are valuable lessons to be learned in the gift-giving (and gift-receiving) process. I was always taught to be happy with anything I received and to be thankful for whatever I received. On the other hand, be a cheerful giver, and give from the heart.

My Dad was a farmer, and our main cash crop was tobacco, therefore, if the tobacco didn't do well, Christmas gifts weren't as plentiful. I can't remember not ever receiving some type of presents at Christmas. I know my parents scrimped and saved; they always made

a way. The gifts my parents saved for gave me renewed faith and respect for the sacrifices they made in order to provide those gifts.

Surprise gifts were always welcome; I remember one particular Christmas I received a record player that played 45's and it changed the records automatically. I thought that was big deal. I didn't expect to receive it that Christmas because it was so expensive. Music meant a lot to me in those days; after all there were the Beatles and Elvis to listen to every waking hour. Rock'n 'Roll music was great!

The experiences of love and family togetherness meant so much to me. I wouldn't trade those times for all the presents in the world. I wish my parents were still here; it has never been the same since they passed. Families drift apart and are so busy with their own children that sometimes brother and sisters fail to get together on holidays.

If I could spend one Christmas in my life over again it would be the above Christmas I spoke about. The family closeness and the love we shared was of greater values than anything I could wish for.

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30	1	2	3	4	5	6

<p><b>Purnell's Old Folks Sausage</b>  <b>\$7.99</b>                  24-Ct.</p>	<p><b>Purnell's Old Folks 24 Country Sausage Patties</b>  <b>\$7.99</b>                  24-Ct.</p>	<p><b>Whole Boneless Pork Loins</b>  <b>\$1.79</b>                  Lb.</p>	<p><b>Boneless Center Cut Pork Chops</b>  <b>\$2.99</b>                  Lb.</p>	<p><b>Doritos Chips</b>  <b>2/\$5</b>                  FOR</p>
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<p><b>Sweet Onions</b>  <b>99¢</b>                  Lb.</p>	<p><b>Extra Large Broccoli</b>  <b>\$2.49</b>                  Ea.</p>	<p><b>Red Ripe Beefsteak Tomatoes</b>  <b>\$1.29</b>                  Lb.</p>	<p><b>Pillsbury Cake Mixes</b>  <b>99¢</b>                  Ea.</p>	<p><b>Chicken, Turkey, Cornbread Stuffing Mix</b>  <b>99¢</b>                  IGA</p>
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<p><b>5-Lb. Flour Martha White</b>  <b>2/\$5</b>                  FOR</p>	<p><b>Martha White Flour</b>  <b>2/\$5</b>                  FOR</p>	<p><b>Family Pack Chicken Tenders</b>  <b>\$2.99</b>                  Lb.</p>	<p><b>Family Pack USDA 80% Ground Beef</b>  <b>\$2.79</b>                  Lb.</p>	<p><b>Red Gold Tomato Juice</b>  <b>2/\$3</b>                  46-Oz.</p>
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<p><b>Red Seedless Grapes</b>  <b>\$1.29</b>                  Lb.</p>	<p><b>Hellmann's Mayonnaise</b>  <b>\$5.69</b>                  16-Oz.</p>	<p><b>IGA 24-Ct. Bottled Water</b>  <b>2/\$5</b>                  FOR</p>	<p><b>Yukon Gold or Red Potatoes</b>  <b>2/\$5</b>                  3-Lb. Bags</p>	<p><b>Philly Cream Cheese</b>  <b>\$2.59</b>                  Ea.</p>	<p><b>Navel Oranges</b>  <b>\$3.99</b>                  3-Lb.</p>
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